

Kindly enter the following Amendment:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 7 and 8, and amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 12 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor integrated circuit comprised of a plurality of functional blocks and a gate array block, each of the plurality of functional blocks being respectively provided with predetermined functions by semiconductor devices, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the gate array block comprised of a plurality of basic cells arranged in line and the plurality of functional blocks within a predetermined first area including a center position on a surface of a semiconductor chip;

placing a plurality of I/O buffers in a second area surrounding the first area;

designing circuits for inclusion in the gate array block; and

establishing electrical connections between the basic cells within the gate array block by using interconnections according to the circuits designed in the previous step.

3. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor integrated circuit according to claim 1, wherein said step of placing the gate array block comprised of a plurality of basic cells arranged in line and the plurality of functional blocks within a predetermined first area including a center position on a surface of a semiconductor chip includes

laying out the gate array block and the plurality of functional blocks by one of a standard

cell system and a full custom system.

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4. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor integrated circuit according to claim 2, wherein said step of placing the gate array block comprised of a plurality of basic cells arranged in line and the plurality of functional blocks within a predetermined first area including a center position on a surface of a semiconductor chip includes

laying out the gate array block and the plurality of functional blocks by one of a standard cell system and a full custom system.

6. (Twice Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit comprising:
a plurality of functional blocks placed on a semiconductor chip, said functional blocks being respectively provided with predetermined functions by semiconductor devices; [and]
a gate array block placed on said chip, said gate array block being comprised of a plurality of basic cells arranged in line and electrically connected between the basic cells lying within the gate array block by interconnections implementing a desired function, the gate array block having a circuit designed after placing said plurality of functional blocks and said plurality of basic cells on said chip,

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wherein said functional blocks and said gate array block are laid out in a first area including a center position on a surface of the semiconductor chip; and
a plurality of I/O buffers surrounding the first area.

12. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising a plurality of functional blocks and a gate array block, each of said plurality of functional blocks being respectively completed by a layout design, the method comprising the steps of :

placing the gate array block, comprised of a plurality of basic cells arranged in line, within a first area of a semiconductor chip and said plurality of functional blocks within a second area of said semiconductor chip;

placing a plurality of I/O buffers in a third area surrounding the first and second areas;

designing circuits for inclusion in the gate array block; and

establishing electrical connections between the basic cells lying within the gate array block by using interconnections in accordance with the designed circuits whereby said designed circuits are formed on said semiconductor chip.

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